



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435
www.mvk.usace.army.mil



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	KNG-MVK-2004-1116
EVALUATOR:	Kaaren Geter
PHONE NO.:	(601) 631-5162
FAX NO.:	(601) 631-5459
E-MAIL:	regulatory@mvk02.usace.army.mil
DATE:	July 14, 2005
EXPIRATION DATE:	August 5, 2005

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services are considering an application for a Department of the Army permit and State water quality certification for the work described herein. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, ATTN: CEMVK-OD-F, at the above address and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, Post Office Box 10385, Jackson, Mississippi 39289-0385, and must reach these offices by the cited expiration date.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), which applies to structures or work in navigable waters of the United States and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:
Big River Farms Partnership
433 Metairie Road, Suite 600
Metairie, Louisiana 70005

Name of Agent:
Christopher G. Allen
433 Metairie Road, Suite 600
Metairie, Louisiana 70005

Location of Work: Section 23, T10N-R1W, UTM 15 3521885N 666077E, within the Coles Creek drainage basin, Jefferson County, near Rodney, Mississippi.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to place dredged and/or fill material into wetlands and other waters of the United States associated with the construction of a bridge, two bridge approaches, a low water crossing, and borrow areas.

The purpose of the proposed project would be to replace a seasonal low water crossing with a permanent bridge crossing to gain access to Rodney Island. The current low water crossing only allows seasonal access to the island. The low water crossing is placed in the channel from borrow material located near the site. During ordinary high water sand/silt is deposited back into the borrow areas and used during the next low water season to build the crossing. The applicant proposes to build a permanent bridge structure to gain year round access to the island for hunting, logging, and general maintenance of the property.

The proposed project site would be located within the ordinary high water elevation of the Mississippi River near river mile 389. The bridge would be placed over an existing channel that flows from the Mississippi River into Rodney Lake. The project site would consist of approximately 1 acre, of which approximately 0.83 acre would be located in wetlands and 0.11 acre of other waters of the United States.

Permanent wetland impacts would consist of the placement of dredged and/or fill material in approximately 0.05 acre for construction of the bridge approaches. The bridge approaches would be located on the existing road bed. The bridge approach on the west end of the project site would be approximately 35 feet in length and 22 feet in width. The bridge approach on the east end of the project site would be approximately 55 feet in length and 22 feet in width.

Temporary wetland impacts would involve the mechanical clearing and excavation of approximately 0.78 acre of borrow areas along the existing channel. The borrow area on the west side of the project site would involve the clearing and excavation of approximately 0.3 acre of wetlands. The borrow area on the east side of the project site would involve the clearing and excavation of approximately 0.48 acre of wetlands. The borrow material would be used to construct the bridge approaches and repair the low water road crossing. These borrow areas have been

used for years to obtain material to repair the existing road and low water crossing. The wetlands are disturbed areas with some herbaceous species. Once the river rises, sediment/silt would be deposited into the borrow areas and the areas would naturally re-vegetate.

The other waters of the United States, located on the proposed project site, is the channel that connects Rodney Lake with the Mississippi River. Repair of the low water road crossing would involve temporary impacts from the placement of dredged and/or fill material in approximately 0.11 acre of other waters. The low water crossing would be approximately 200 feet in length and 25 feet in width. The road crossing would be used during construction of the bridge structure. Once the bridge structure is complete the fill material would be removed by the applicant or allowed to be dispersed once the river begins to rise.

Approximately 1350 cubic yards of fill material would be used to construct the bridge approaches and reconstruct the low water crossing.

The proposed steel truss span bridge structure would be approximately 284 feet in length and 22 feet in width. The structure would span the channel located north of Rodney Lake. The channel is within the ordinary high water elevation of the Mississippi River. The bottom of the bridge would be approximately 53.5 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) and the top rail of the bridge would be approximately 62.1 feet NGVD. The ordinary high water mark of the Mississippi River at Mile 389 is 57.9 feet NGVD.

The placement of dredged and/or fill material in navigable waters of the United States associated with the mechanized land clearing and bridge construction requires a Department of the Army Permit.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

State Water Quality Permit: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

Cultural Resources: An initial review indicates that the proposed project would not affect any of the sites in Jefferson County listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Copies of this notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, the Corps archaeologists, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to cultural resources that could result from this activity.

Endangered Species: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

Flood Plain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Involvement: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit

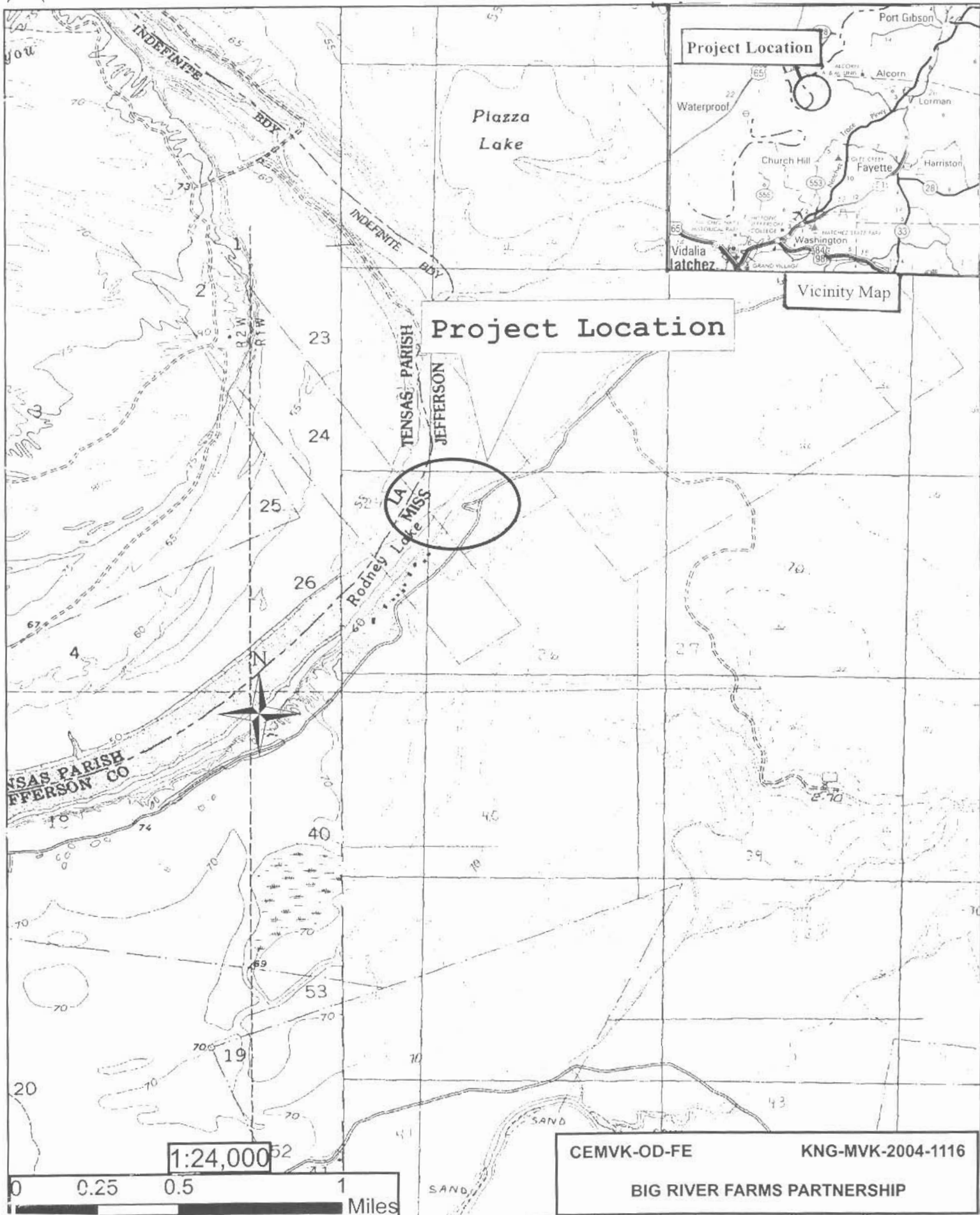
with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

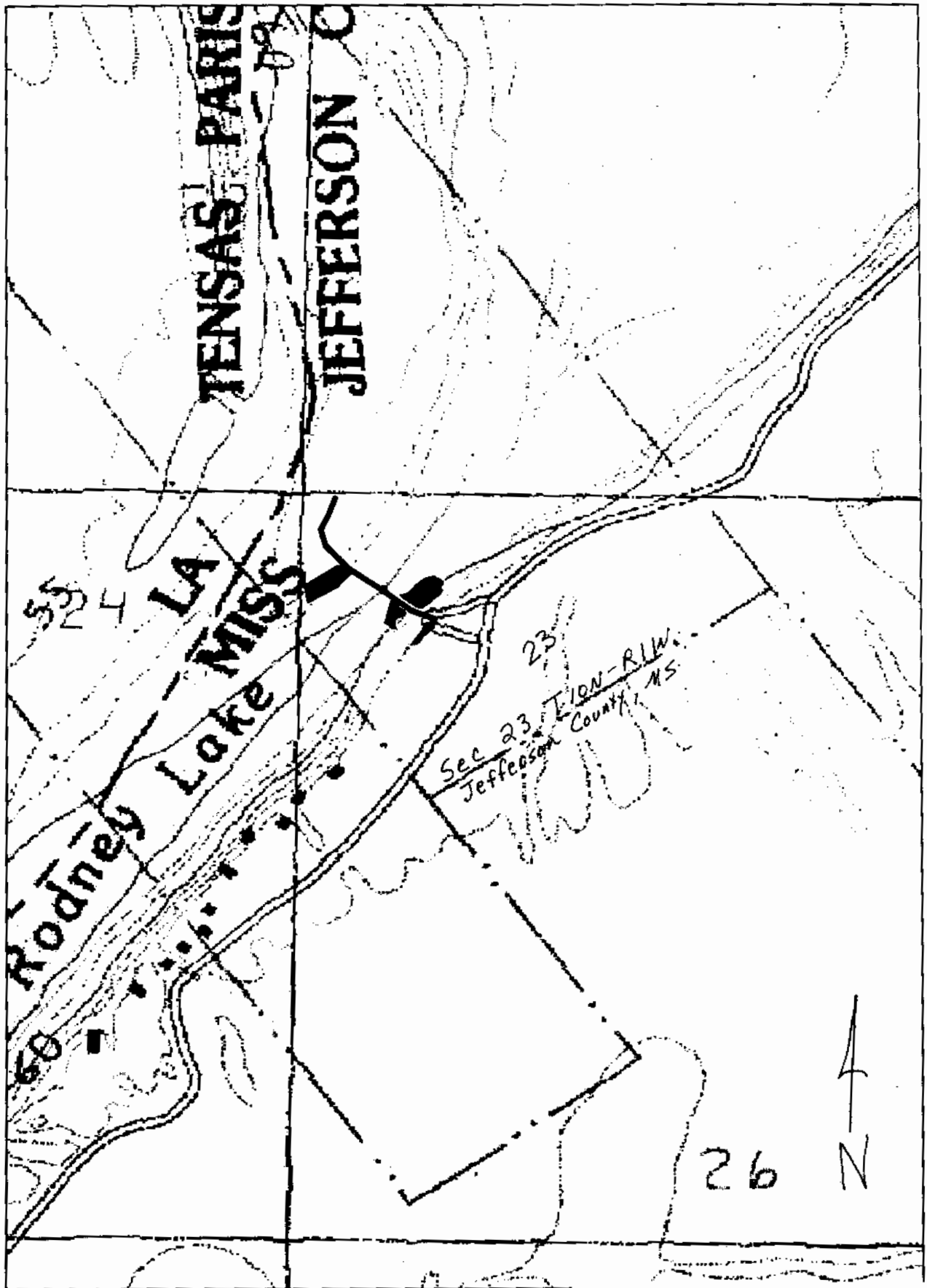
Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/main.asp>, or go directly to the Final Permit Actions web page at <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/PubNotice/MonthlyNotice/pnmain.asp>.

W. Harold Lee
Team Leader
Evaluation Section

RODNEY ISLAND CROSSING





CEMVK-OD-FE KNG-MVK-2004-1

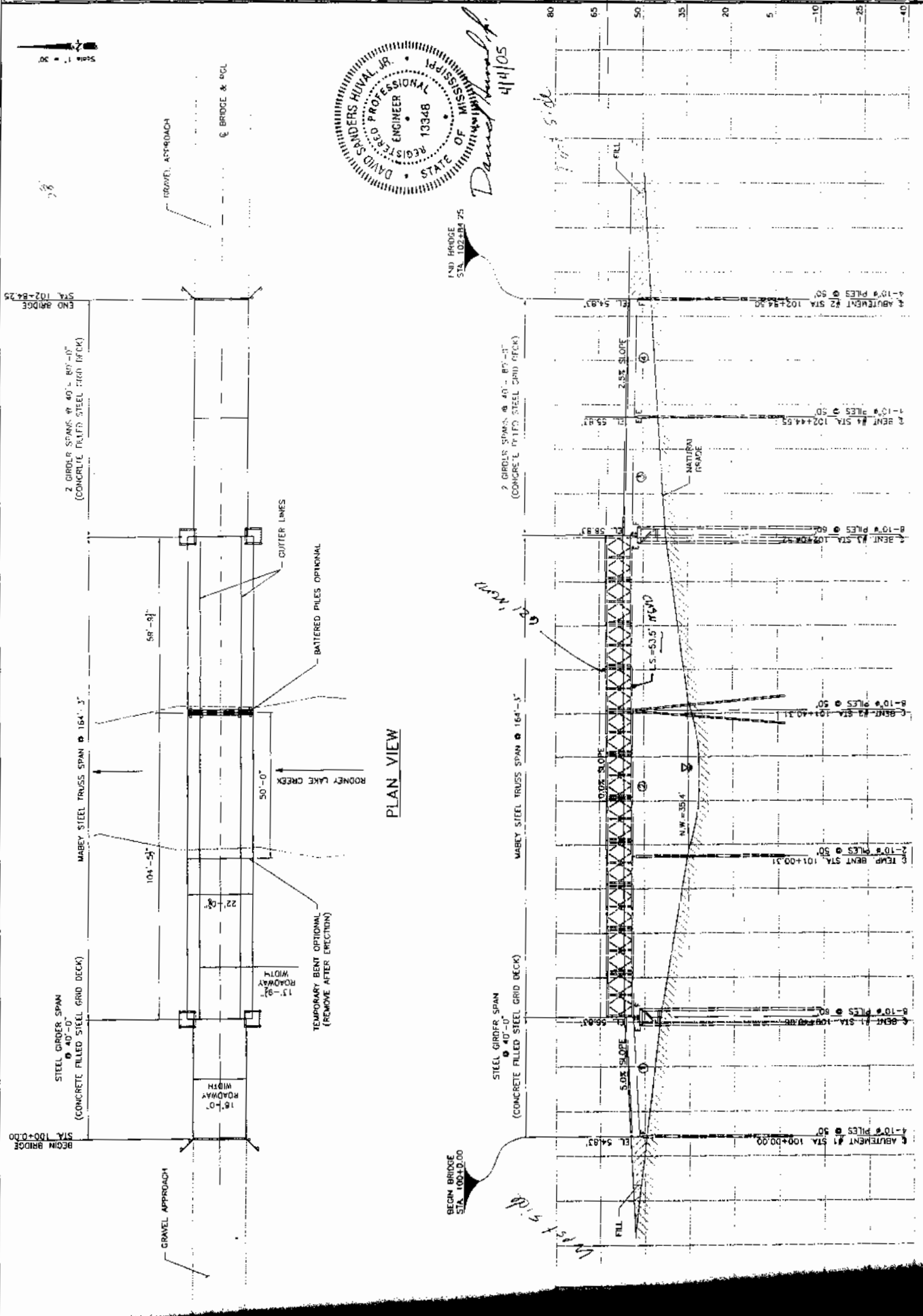


Borrow Area



Existing Road

BIG RIVER FARMS PARTNERSHIP

[illegible]

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BIG RIVER FARMS PARTNERSHIP